

McWhinney Denies Flop on Rent Inquiry

Assemblyman Explains Vote to Restrict Investigation by Assertion Bank Inquiry Is Not Germane

Holds Power Now Ample

Should Work Be Hampered Promises to Demand Needed Authority at Albany

Assemblyman Thomas A. McWhinney, vice-chairman of the Lockwood Committee on Housing, issued a statement yesterday in explanation of his vote for the resolution restricting the powers of the committee.

McWhinney declared that the amended resolution, as passed by the Assembly, would give the committee all the authority necessary to go into every phase of the housing situation. The provisions of the original resolution, including an unhampered investigation of banks and insurance companies, he said, were not germane to the housing inquiry.

The Assemblyman said he was proud of the work of the committee, and in case an effort is made to tie up its activities when hearings are resumed he will at once go before the Legislature with a demand for additional powers.

McWhinney introduced the original resolution before the Assembly and said he urged its approval on the Ways and Means Committee, to which it was referred. When it was reported out to the Assembly on Wednesday, however, he opposed the resolution, favoring its passage in an emasculated form.

Criticism by Lockwood
Senator Lockwood, chairman of the committee, declared at the time that he and Samuel Untermyer, the committee's counsel, had been assured by McWhinney only a week before that there would be no compromise on the measure and that he would see the original resolution through.

McWhinney's statement of yesterday reads in part as follows: "There is no secret about my attitude or the attitude of the Legislature regarding the resolution. The facts are simply these: The Lockwood committee was seeking adequate power to investigate the housing situation in all its phases, including the attitude and action of savings banks, financial institutions and insurance companies in making mortgage loans."

"I introduced the resolution in the Assembly giving the Lockwood committee the power not only to investigate housing in all its phases, but also power to investigate insurance companies and financial institutions generally, because I had been informed it was necessary for our purpose. This, I am now advised, was not a correct view. This resolution was referred to

the Ways and Means Committee of the Assembly. A similar resolution of the Senate was referred to the Finance Committee of that body.

"I personally went before the Ways and Means Committee and for two hours urged the reporting of my resolution unamended. I likewise requested Senator Thompson, of my district, who is a member of the Finance Committee of the Senate, to support the resolution as introduced by Mr. Lockwood, which he did. The Assembly, upon Committee of the Ways and Means, which are two members of the Lockwood committee, representing the minority, refused to report my resolution unamended, but unanimously reported the amended resolution, which was subsequently passed by the Assembly, on the ground that the amended resolution was sufficiently comprehensive to make appropriate financial investigation germane to the housing inquiry."

"After the Ways and Means Committee had unanimously reported the amended resolution I did not accept it or decide to support it until I became convinced that this resolution as amended gave our committee adequate power to accomplish its purpose."

Holds Present Powers Broad
"I was advised and still believe that this amended resolution gives our committee the broadest kind of powers, to investigate banks, insurance companies, trust companies and all financial and other corporations in so far as their actions in any way affect the housing or mortgage situation, the cost of loans, etc."

"Furthermore, I did not accept the amended resolution until I had stated in my address on the floor of the Assembly Wednesday morning what I had previously stated to the Ways and Means Committee, that if any official of any corporation complied through legal tactics to interfere with our investigation or refused to give us the information which we sought on the information that the present resolution does not give us the right to compel such institutions or officials to furnish us with proper information for our inquiry, I would be back within a week with a resolution demanding that power. While the Legislature in session there is no possibility of our committee not securing that power. "Personally, I am proud of the work that our committee and its counsel have done, and I believe the Legislature desires to give us power necessary to complete our work, which was never intended to be a roving commission to investigate financial institutions. I recognize also that a large number of legislators as well as many serious minded business men believe that the time is inopportune to make any such investigation, even independently of any work before our committee. They are of the view that we are passing through a critical period for our financial institutions; that it would be unfair in creating distrust and might result in one of the worst panics we have had in years."

Before Senate Tuesday
The resolution comes before the Senate for action Tuesday.

It was reported yesterday that under the circumstances Mr. Untermyer is considering his withdrawal as counsel for the committee. Color was given to the report by a protracted conference held nearly all day between Mr. Untermyer and Senator Lockwood, during which, it was said, the Senator strongly urged the lawyer to stay with the committee.

Mr. Untermyer is declared to have pointed out that a thorough understanding of the financial phase of the problem was necessary as a basis for constructive measures to be decided upon. The housing situation could not be corrected, he said, until a loan market was created, and the market could not be created until the underlying reasons for its absence were got at.

Shipyard Men Ordered to Vote On a Wage Cut

About 75,000 Skilled Laborers to Decide Proposal of Atlantic Coast Builders and Bethlehem Corporation

Workers Reported Split

Schwab Firm Provides for Bonus Payments for Increased Production, Skill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—Officials of the labor unions representing skilled employees of shipyards to-day ordered a general referendum on the proposal of the Atlantic Coast Ship Builders' Association and the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation that wage scales be reduced 10 per cent as the initial move in a program designed to bring down production costs.

Proposals made to the union leaders at conferences held with the Bethlehem company in New York and with a committee from the Atlantic Coast yards in Philadelphia were identical, it was said to-day, except that the former indicated a desire to put the new scale into effect not later than February 14, while the latter offered to wait until March 1.

A. J. Berres, secretary of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, which has been supervising the negotiations, said to-day that the question of whether the cut would be accepted depended entirely upon the outcome of the vote. Between 60,000 and 75,000 skilled laborers were affected, he estimated.

The proposal of the ship builders was that the 10 per cent bonus, added in 1917 by an arbitration board headed by Charles E. Mac, of the Shipping Board, as a temporary increase and made an integral part of the regular wage schedules in 1919, be eliminated. This bonus brought the base pay of the skilled mechanics to 80 cents an hour. Union officials were unable to forecast the result of the vote. Preliminary reports from important districts, they said, indicated that a majority of the men might be willing to accept the cut, while other districts seemingly were as heavily in opposition. The continued depression in the industry, with the dearth of new contracts for the last six months, was expected to influence the result.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Jan. 29.—The proposal submitted by the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation to its employees calls for wage reductions averaging from 10 to 20 per cent, but provides for the payment of bonuses for efficiency and increased production. This was made known here to-day at the close of conferences between E. H. Ewertz, general manager of the Moore plant of the Bethlehem Corporation, and committees of employees.

The corporation's proposal, submitted with the idea of reducing production costs 25 per cent, is understood to be in the form of a plan whereby greater efficiency on the part of the individual workers will be rewarded in the pay envelope. The bonus for efficiency, it was said, would amount to as much, and in some cases more, than the wage cut.

The extent of the wage reduction varies in the different departments.

During the conferences here production costs for each department, with actual figures on each piece of work performed, were placed before the men and a comparison drawn with production costs in other yards. Bethlehem officials contended that they must reduce production costs in order to meet outside competition and keep their yards in operation.

They also complained, it was said, that the efficiency of the plant here has decreased 20 per cent from what it was before the war. The Moore plant had a mark of 85 per cent efficiency at one time, but during the war this dropped to 60. It is now only about 65 per cent, it was said.

Subs Attack Battleships

ON BOARD THE U. S. FLAGSHIP PENNSYLVANIA, Jan. 28 (By Wireless via Callao, Peru, to The Associated Press).—The American battle fleets separated this evening about midway between Callao and Valparaiso, Chile, the Atlantic fleet turning and steaming northward to Callao and the Pacific fleet proceeding to Valparaiso.

Both divisions are expected to arrive at their destinations on the morning of January 31, to remain until February 5. War-time conditions obtained yesterday evening, when fourteen battleships, with eighteen destroyers protecting them, proceeded in battle formation without lights, while a second squadron of eighteen destroyers staged an attack.

Dirigible R-34 Wrecked By Gale; Loss Is Million

Craft, After Series of Mishaps, Breaks in Two Near Hangar

From The Tribune's European Bureau Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—The huge British dirigible airship R-34 is a wreck, representing a loss of \$1,000,000, as the result of a series of mishaps extending from Thursday night to last night.

On Thursday night, during a maneuver, the dirigible struck a hill in the darkness, damaged its propellers and engines and was blown out to sea with its crew of forty men. Yesterday afternoon it succeeded in making its way back to its base at Howden Airdrome. After the crew had disembarked it was made fast in the open, as a high wind made it impossible to take the ship into its hangar. Later the wind increased to a gale, and in renewed attempts to get the ship into shelter a great hole was torn in its fabric. Eventually the dirigible buckled in the middle and broke. The Air Ministry reported this evening that it was to all intents and purposes a wreck.

The fabric of the R-34 was torn during its visit to New York in 1919, and it was a similar occurrence last night which is believed to have caused it to break.

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Novelty Silk Hosiery

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Pure silk hosiery in two tone effects, with open-work clox.

Superfine Silk Hosiery

Formerly 3.50 & 3.95 2.50

Exceptional quality silk in black, white, cordovan, castor or gray.

Novelty Silk Hosiery

Formerly 4.95 to 8.95 3.95

Openwork or with hand-embroidered self color clox, black, cordovan, gray or white.

Ribbed Wool Hosiery

Formerly 3.25 & 4.95 2.50

In brown, heather or oxford mixtures.

Arabian Mocha Gloves

Formerly 4.50 2.75

One clasp; in beaver shades.

French Kid Gloves

Formerly 4.50 2.95

Genuine imported French kidskin two clasp gloves, all white, brown or beaver shades, also white stitched black.

Gauntlet Capeskin Gloves

Formerly 7.00 4.95

Slip-on gloves of lightweight capeskin in tan, brown or oyster white, strap at wrist.

Gauntlet Mocha Gloves

Formerly 8.00 5.50

Slip-on Arabian Mocha gloves in beaver shades with strap at wrist.

MAIN FLOOR

"Bontell" Silk Pantalettes

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Heavy quality Milanese silk in black, navy, brown, green, gray or purple, full cut and reinforced.

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Silk top and mercerized lisle body; regular and bodice top, pink only.

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Women's Fur Trim'd Velvet Coats..... 95.00

Formerly up to 295.00

Women's Fur Trim'd Wraps & Coats..... 98.00

Formerly up to 275.00

Women's Velvet Evening Wraps..... 95.00

Formerly up to 195.00

Women's Fur Trim'd Wraps & Coats..... 145.00

Formerly up to 345.00

Women's Evening Wraps..... 150.00

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45 and 48 inches long, made of fine selected skins. Of fine selected skins with collar and cuffs of beaver, squirrel or skunk.

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